

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing event schedules, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:
 - initializing a calendar system;
 - generating an invitation list;
 - sending an invitation to a first scheduled event having a scheduled event time to a plurality of users in the invitation list;
 - receiving a plurality of acceptance messages associated with the first scheduled event having the scheduled event time, each of the plurality of acceptance messages associated with a respective user of the plurality of users;
 - for each of the plurality of users for which an acceptance message has been received from, identifying a schedule conflict of a user associated with an acceptance message of the plurality of acceptance messages, wherein identifying the schedule conflict comprises accessing a schedule store of a data processing system that generated the acceptance message, wherein the schedule conflict of the user is identified if the ~~user has~~ schedule store contains a plurality of time-overlapping events with respect to the first scheduled event that the user has previously accepted in their own calendaring system;
 - responsive to identifying the schedule conflict, calculating, for each of the plurality of users, a probable attendance from the plurality of acceptance messages, wherein the probable attendance is calculated to be inversely proportional (1/x) to how many (x) of the plurality of time-overlapping events exist, with respect to the first scheduled event, that the user has previously accepted in their own calendaring system;
 - displaying each of the plurality of users and the respective probable attendance for each of the plurality of users in a user interface;
 - forming a meeting status value from the calculated probable attendance for each of the plurality of users; and

conveying the meeting status value to at least one user associated with one of the plurality of acceptance messages.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing event schedules, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for initializing a calendar system;

second instructions for generating an invitation list;

third instructions for sending an invitation to a first scheduled event having a scheduled event time in the invitation list;

fourth instructions for receiving a plurality of invitation acceptance messages of the scheduled event from a plurality of users;

fifth instructions for interrogating the respective calendar system of each of the plurality of users for which an acceptance message has been received from, wherein interrogating the respective calendar system of each of the plurality of users includes identifying an event schedule in the respective calendar system that conflicts with the scheduled event;

sixth instructions that calculates a respective probability value of attendance for each of the plurality of users for which an acceptance message has been received from, wherein at least one probability value is weighted for an identified schedule conflict of a user of the plurality of users, wherein the identified schedule conflict of the user occurs if the first scheduled event time-overlaps with a plurality of preexisting calendared events that the user has previously accepted in their respective calendar system, wherein the weight of the probability value is inversely proportional to how many of the plurality of preexisting calendared events, that the user has previously accepted in their respective calendar system, time-overlap with the first scheduled event;

seventh instructions for displaying each of the users and the respective probability value of attendance for each of the plurality of users in a user interface;

eighth instructions for forming a meeting status value from the respective probability value of attendance for each of the plurality of users for which an acceptance message has been received from; and

ninth instructions for conveying the meeting status value to the at least one user associated with one of the plurality of acceptance messages.

8-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for managing an electronic calendar system, comprising:

a memory that contains the electronic calendar system as a set of instructions;

a processing unit that generates an invitation list;

the processing unit that sends the invitation to a first scheduled event having a scheduled event time in the invitation list;

the processing unit that generates a list of users each associated with one of a plurality of acceptance messages;

a network adapter that receives the plurality of acceptance messages;

the processing unit, responsive to execution of the set of instructions, that interrogates the respective calendar system of each of the users for which an acceptance message has been received from, and calculates a respective probability value associated with each of the plurality of acceptance messages and weights a probability value of an associated acceptance message responsive to identification of at least one scheduling conflict, wherein the at least one scheduling conflict occurs if a given user has a plurality of time-overlapping events, with respect to the first scheduled event, that the given user has previously accepted in their respective calendar system, wherein the weight of the probability value is inversely proportional to how many of the plurality of time-overlapping events exists;

a display device that displays a graphical output of the list of users on the display device;

the display device that displays a meeting status value, wherein the meeting status value is visually represented as a color of a plurality of colors each corresponding to a range of the possible meeting status values to visually indicate a likelihood that the first scheduled event will occur, wherein the meeting status value is formed from the respective probability value of attendance for each of the plurality of users for which an acceptance message has been received from; and

the processing unit that conveys the meeting status value to the at least one user associated with one of the plurality of acceptance messages.

16-24. (Canceled)